

## Mitchell Field: “To Do” List

The Mitchell Field Implementation Committee (MFIC) will continue to keep our neighbors updated throughout the winter on what’s happening at Mitchell Field. That’s simply because either you may not enjoy walking the perimeter in 20° temps or because most of the winter work will be concentrated on the indoor administrative tasks of preparing for next seasons outdoor work.

**What’s been done?** Just for a quick recap of 2008; the chain link fencing is gone at the waterfront and at the Rt. 123 entrance, a new entry façade has been constructed, wooded trails have been cleared for hikers and X-country skiers, benches have been donated and installed along the perimeter walking path, the waterfront lawns have been recovered, and doggie clean-up stations have been installed. Not a bad year in terms of progress!

**What’s next?** The MFIC is working with the town and other regulatory agencies to open the roadway to vehicular traffic all the way to the waterfront. It’s not as simple as opening the gate and yelling, “come and get it”! Hopefully by next spring our handicapped neighbors will have the opportunity to enjoy views of both Middle Bay and Mt. Washington from the water’s edge. Before the really cold weather hits, the MFIC will be soliciting YOU to help with an effort to do some initial work at clearing various hazards off the superstructure of the pier. This is in preparation for our plans to open the pier for recreational use in the future. Other short term tasks such as derelict building demolition, park bench installation, and picnic table construction will continue throughout the winter.

Administratively, the committee is undertaking the task of forming a contextual foundation for the two parcels of land in Mitchell Field’s business enterprise zone. This is a complex and tedious process of forming zoning criteria and performance standards for property that lies in a very sensitive area. If those that undertake this task are successful, it will benefit Harpswell citizens tens of thousands of dollars in savings over outsourcing this work to consultants. Look for more info in The Anchor as you will likely be called upon for input as this unfolds. The Mitchell Field page on the Harpswell website is in the process of being updated to facilitate this two way information transfer.

**What can I do?** In a word, plenty!

1. stay connected to what’s going on by asking questions of those that should have the answers
2. volunteer and get involved

3. take ownership of the property; think of it as an extension of your backyard
4. carry a cell phone

Two incidents over the last few weeks indicated a good trend toward owning the property; one involved a cell phone and the other didn't.

As the rules and signs indicate, unauthorized vehicles are prohibited from use at Mitchell Field. Recently, while operating an ATV on Mitchell Field property the young driver was confronted by park patron as to the rules and consequences of his actions. The confrontation was cordial but firm and was received by the offender with a sense of understanding. Meanwhile, another patron snapped a cell phone picture of the infraction and a call was made to the sheriff. Names were taken, warnings issued, and the incident was closed. Lesson given, lesson received.

Most recently, a serious incident involving an uncontrolled pet wound up with the Animal Control Officer becoming involved. Park patrons stepped up to give descriptions and accounts of the incident in an attempt to find the offending party. In this case, a cell phone photo would have been very helpful in bringing this to a faster conclusion as well. Without security cameras and ever present police, you are the ears and eyes of Mitchell Field. The simple job of carrying your cell phone in your pocket to Mitchell and using it when necessary is key to allowing us, the townspeople of Harpswell, to control the property; not those who would stray outside the spirit of the rules.

**Mitchell Field Implementation Committee**

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Don Miskill – Secretary  
Carol Tukey - Town Planner  
Dave Chipman

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